



Date: December 2, 2009

To: Rhode Island parents and guardians of school-aged children in out-of-state schools

From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH

Re: H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Islanders who are enrolled in out-of-state schools

Frequently Asked Questions About the H1N1 Vaccination Clinic For Rhode Islanders in Out-of-State Schools (K-12)

Question: Who is eligible for vaccination at the H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Islanders who are enrolled in out-of-state schools?

Answer: The clinic is only open to Rhode Island residents who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in schools outside of Rhode Island. Children needed to be pre-enrolled for the clinic through the registration system on the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH)'s website before 4 p.m. on December 2.

Q: When will HEALTH hold its H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Island children who are enrolled in out-of-state schools?

A: The vaccination clinic for children who are Rhode Island residents and who are enrolled in out-of-state schools (K-12) will be held on December 12, 2009 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Q: Where will HEALTH hold the H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Island residents in out-of-state schools?

A: The clinic will be held in the Cannon Building, HEALTH's headquarters in Providence. The Cannon Building is located at Three Capitol Hill, just north of the Rhode Island State House. Ample, free onsite parking is available. Clear signage in and around the Cannon Building will direct parents and guardians to the vaccine administration area. For directions to the Cannon Building, see www.health.ri.gov/directions/index.php.

Q: Can a child who was not pre-enrolled for the H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Island students in out-of-state schools be vaccinated at that clinic?

A: No. A child who was not pre-registered for the clinic through HEALTH's online enrollment system will be not vaccinated at the clinic.

Q: Can children who missed the H1N1 vaccination clinic at their Rhode Island schools attend the clinic for Rhode Island students in out-of-state schools?

A: No. Only children who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in out-of-state schools are eligible to receive vaccine at the clinic. Children who missed their own schools' vaccination clinics will be able to get vaccinated at their physicians' offices later.

Q: Does my child need a signed and dated consent form to be vaccinated at the clinic?

A: Yes. Only children with signed and dated consent forms will be vaccinated at the clinic for Rhode Island students in out-of-state schools.

Q: Where can I find an H1N1 vaccination consent form?

A: H1N1 vaccination consent forms are available on HEALTH's [website](#). Consent forms and Vaccine Information Statements are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Q: When filling out my daughter's consent form I answered "yes" to one of the questions in Section 2. Can she be vaccinated at the clinic for Rhode Island residents in out-of-state schools?

A: If you answered "yes" to question one, three or four in Section 2 of the H1N1 vaccination consent form your child cannot be vaccinated at the clinic for Rhode Island residents in out-of-state schools. These questions deal with serious allergies to eggs, serious reactions to previous doses of flu vaccine and Guillain-Barré Syndrome. If you answered "yes" to question two in Section 2 of the consent form and your child is allergic to formalin, thimerosal, gelatin or neomycin your child also cannot be vaccinated at the clinic. If you answered "yes" to question two because your child has a serious allergy to any other substance unrelated to the vaccine your child can receive the vaccine at the clinic.

Q: Where should consent forms be returned?

A: Signed and dated consent forms must be presented at the clinic. Parents and guardians should not mail consent forms to HEALTH and they should not send consent forms to their childrens' schools.

Q: Can children who attend pre-schools outside of Rhode Island be vaccinated at the clinic for out-of-state students?

A: No. Pre-school children who reside in Rhode Island should receive H1N1 vaccine from their pediatricians.

Q: Should children who have already had the flu this season still get vaccinated against H1N1 flu?

A: Yes. The symptoms of H1N1 flu and other flu strains that are circulating this season are similar. Without laboratory tests, individuals don't know if they have had H1N1 flu. For those who have had H1N1 flu this season, the H1N1 vaccine will not be harmful.

Q: One of my children attends a school out of state and another attends a Rhode Island school. Can both of my children be vaccinated at the clinic for out-of-state students?

A: No. Only children who live in Rhode Island and are enrolled in elementary schools, middle schools and high schools out of state are eligible to receive vaccine at the clinic.

Q: Is H1N1 vaccination at the clinic for Rhode Islanders in out-of-state schools free?

A: Yes. No fees are associated with H1N1 vaccination at the clinic.

Q: Can pregnant high school students be vaccinated at the clinic for Rhode Islanders in out-of-state schools?

A: No. Obstetricians, family physicians or midwives should vaccinate pregnant high school students.

Q: Did HEALTH schedule a snow date for the clinic?

A: Yes. If inclement weather forces HEALTH to cancel the H1N1 vaccination clinic on December 12, the clinic will run on December 19. Any information about changes in the clinic's date will be posted on HEALTH's [website](#) as soon as it is available.

Q: I have additional questions. How can I contact HEALTH?

A: You can reach HEALTH by email at H1N1@health.ri.gov or by calling HEALTH's H1N1 Information Line (401-222-8022). Responders on this information line are prepared to answer questions in English and Spanish.